

Amend Section 6369 of the Revenue and Taxation Code to include within the medicine exemption, sales of medicines to surgical clinics for the treatment of any person pursuant to the order of a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, and podiatrist.

Source: Sales and Use Tax Department

Under existing law, Section 6369 of the Sales and Use Tax Law provides an exemption from tax for the sale and use of medicines sold to a licensed physician and surgeon, podiatrist, dentist, or health facility for the treatment of a human being. "Health facility" is defined within this statute by a cross-reference to Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code. This section provides a comprehensive description of the types of establishments that fall under that term. However, "surgical clinics" do not fall within this comprehensive description, and therefore, sales of medicines to surgical clinics for the treatment of a human being are subject to tax to the same extent as any other sale of tangible personal property.

This proposal would include a cross-reference to Section 1200 of the Health and Safety Code for purposes of enhancing the definition of "health facility" so as to include within the exemption, medicines sold to a surgical clinic for the treatment of human beings.

This proposal would provide an equitable solution to a confusing area in the law that has resulted in underpayments of tax with respect to sales of medicines to surgical clinics. Surgical clinics essentially provide the same service to patients as any other qualifying health facility, and there is no logical reason why these facilities should be taxed in a manner differently than those establishments already benefiting from the existing exemption.

Section 6369 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:

6369. (a) There are exempted from the taxes imposed by this part the gross receipts from the sale in this state of, and the storage, use, or other consumption, in this state of, medicines:

(1) Prescribed for the treatment of a human being by a person authorized to prescribe the medicines, and dispensed on prescription filled by a registered pharmacist in accordance with law.

(2) Furnished by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist to his or her own patient for treatment of the patient.

(3) Furnished by a health facility for treatment of any person pursuant to the order of a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist.

(4) Sold to a licensed physician and surgeon, podiatrist, dentist, or health facility for the treatment of a human being.

(5) Sold to this state or any political subdivision or municipal corporation thereof, for use in the treatment of a human being; or furnished for the treatment of a human

being by a medical facility or clinic maintained by this state or any political subdivision or municipal corporation thereof.

(6) Furnished without charge by a pharmaceutical manufacturer or distributor to a licensed physician, surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, or health facility for the treatment of a human being, or furnished by a pharmaceutical manufacturer or distributor without charge to an institution of higher education for instruction or research, provided that the exemption provided in this paragraph is limited to medicines of a type that can be dispensed only (A) for the treatment of a human being and (B) pursuant to prescriptions issued by persons authorized to prescribe medicines. The exemption provided in this paragraph shall include the materials used to package, and the constituent elements and ingredients used to produce, the medicines described in this paragraph and is intended to preclude any imposition of tax pursuant to Section 6094 or 6095 with respect to those materials, elements, and ingredients.

(b) "Medicines" as used in this section, means any substance or preparation intended for use by external or internal application to the human body in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease and commonly recognized as a substance or preparation intended for that use. However, "medicines" does not include any of the following:

- (1) Any auditory, prosthetic, ophthalmic, or ocular device or appliance.
- (2) Articles that are in the nature of splints, bandages, pads, compresses, supports, dressings, instruments, apparatus, contrivances, appliances, devices, or other mechanical, electronic, optical or physical equipment or article or the component parts and accessories thereof.
- (3) Any alcoholic beverage the manufacture, sale, purchase, possession, or transportation of which is licensed and regulated by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act (Division 9 (commencing with Section 23000) of the Business and Professions Code).

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), "medicines" as used in this section means and includes any of the following:

- (1) Sutures, whether or not permanently implanted.
- (2) Bone screws, bone pins, pacemakers, and other articles, other than dentures, permanently implanted in the human body to assist the functioning of any natural organ, artery, vein, or limb and which remain or dissolve in the body.
- (3) (A) Orthotic devices, other than orthodontic devices, designed to be worn on the person of the user as a brace, support, or correction for the body structure, and replacement parts for these devices. However, orthopedic shoes and supportive devices for the foot are not exempt unless they are custom-made biomechanical foot orthoses or are an integral part of a leg brace or artificial leg.
(B) For purposes of this paragraph, "custom-made biomechanical foot orthoses" means an individually prescribed foot orthosis which is custom fabricated over a neutral or near neutral subtalar joint with a pronated midtarsal joint position positive plaster model of the patient's foot, which model, when the cast is modified to support the osseous position of the forefoot in relationship to the rearfoot, embodies the angular osseous relationships of the anterior and posterior portions of the foot.

(4) Prosthetic devices, and replacement parts for those devices, designed to be worn on or in the person of the user to replace or assist the functioning of a natural part of the human body, other than auditory, opthalmic, and ocular devices or appliances, and other than dentures, removable or fixed bridges, crowns, caps, inlays, artificial teeth, and other dental prosthetic materials and devices.

(5) Artificial limbs and eyes, or their replacement parts, for human beings.

(6) Programmable drug infusion devices to be worn on or implanted in the human body.

(d) "Health facility" as used in this section has the meaning ascribed to it in Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code [and also includes "clinics" as that term is defined in Section 1200 of the Health and Safety Code.](#)

(e) Insulin and insulin syringes furnished by a registered pharmacist to a person for treatment of diabetes as directed by a physician shall be deemed to be dispensed on prescription within the meaning of this section.

(f) Orthotic and prosthetic devices, and replacement parts for these devices, furnished pursuant to the written order of a physician or podiatrist, shall be deemed to be dispensed on prescription within the meaning of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), whether or not the devices are furnished by a registered pharmacist.

(g) Mammary prostheses, and any appliances and related supplies necessary as the result of any surgical procedure by which an artificial opening is created in the human body for the elimination of natural waste, shall be deemed to be dispensed on prescription within the meaning of this section.